7. Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for new industrial units has been put in place.

8. The Prime Minister Rozgar Yojna (PMRY) liberlized.

9. Under Integrated Infrastructural Developmnt Scheme, wherein the Project Cost is around 5 crore, the grant is up to 80% of the project cost subject to the ceiling of Rs. 4 Crore.

10. SISI opened in all the States of the N.E. Region, where only 50% of the prescribed consultancy rates for the services rendered by the SIDO officers is charged.

11. Indian Institute Entrepreneurship (IIE) established in 1993 in Guwahati for training, research and consultancy services for small industry/entrepreneurs in the Region.

The various measures have been implemented through issuance of necessary notifications. These measures are expected to attract industries in to the region.

(c) There are no proposals with the Ministry of Heavy Industry to establish heavy industries in North Eastern Region in the Ninth Plan.

Development Potential of Commerce in NER

1147. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the 36th Report on Development Potential of Commerce in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, what action has been taken up on the lines of recommendations of the Commission; and

(c) the steps taken specially for the development of industries in the industrially backward area of North-Eastern region during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The status of action taken on the salient recommendations made in the 36th Report of the

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on Development Potential of Commerce in NER is as follows:

(i) Export Promotion Industrial Parks have been sanctioned for Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland. So far Rs. 21.00 crores have been released to these States under the scheme.

(ii) Tea Board, Rubber Board, Coffee Board, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Spices Board have opened their offices at different locations in the NE region for boosting exports of agricultural, horticultural and plantation products.

(iii) So far seven projects have been sanctioned for the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme Rs. 14.7147 crores has been sanctioned for these projects.

(iv) NH No. 31 in Assam, NH numbers 40, 51 and 62 in Meghalaya, NH 44 in Tripura and NH 39 in Manipur States connecting neighboring countries viz, Bangladesh and Myanmar are being maintained in a traffic-worthy condition within the availability of funds. Highway from Karimganj to Sutarkhandi on Indo-Bangladesh border in Assam has been declared as NH 151 during September, 1999 for promoting trade with Bangladesh.

The draft Ninth Five-Year Plan (1992-97) for the NE region provides for improvement of NHs and construction/reconstruction of bridges at an estimated cost of Rs. 2104 crore. This amount includes a mega project for construction of rail-cum-road bridge across Brahmaputra at Bogibeel near Dibrugarh on NH 52B costing about Rs. 942 crore.

(c) Government is implementing the Integrated Industrial Development (IID) and Growth Centre schemes in the North Eastern Region. Eight Growth Centres in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Mizoram has been approved in the NE region and a total amount of Rs. 11.98 crores has been released. Following announcement of New Industrial Policy for North Eastern Region, Growth Centres and IID have become tax free zones for income tax and excise duty for a period of 10 years. Funding pattern for IID Centres has been changed from 2:3

between the Government and SIDBI to 4:1 now and Government funds would be in nature of grants. Industries located in Growth Centres are eligible for capital investment subsidy at the rate of 15% of their investment in plant and machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30 lacs. Transport subsidy scheme has been extended upto 31.3.2007 and the amount is to be disbursed through North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. An interest subsidy at the rate of 3% on the working capital loans would be provided for a period of 10 years to the new units in the NE region. Comprehensive insurance scheme for new industrial units has also been drawn up.

System of providing subsidies

1148. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of providing subsidies under Central Schemes sponsored by his Ministry reaches the deserving persons;

(b) if so, the details regarding subsidies being provided presently on which products and how much;

(c) whether such suibsidies will be continued; and

(d) if so, the period upto which such subsidies will be continued to achieve the desired results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry is administratively concerned with 4 Centrally sponsored subsidy schemes viz. (i) Transport subsidy Scheme, 1971; (ii) Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, 1997; (iii) Central Interest Subsidy Scheme, 1997 and (iv) Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme, 1997.

The Subsidy payable under these schemes is an incentive to promote industrialisation in the notified hilly, remote and inaccessible areas of the country. No product-wise subsidy is payable under these schemes.

The schemes at (i) to (iii) are operated through the agency of the State Government. The subsidy claims are examined and the quantum of subsidy payable to the eligible units is determined by the